

University of Swaziland  
Faculty of Humanities  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies

**2016/2017 Main Examination Paper, December 2016**

Course code : TRS 214  
Course title : The Bible and the Arts  
Duration : Two (2) Hours

Instructions

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Make sure that you accurately label the questions you have opted to answer.
- c. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.

NB.: All questions are worth 20 marks.

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TRS 214 The Bible and the Arts (M) December, 2016

Question 1

Discuss the characteristics of the Bible as a classic text.

Question 2

With reference to relevant illustrations from biblical contents, explain the idea that the Bible is an interpretation of life.

Question 3

Identify various sources of artistic expression and appropriately classify the Bible under one of these sources.

Question 4

Explain the notion that biblically inspired art is a re-interpretation of the Bible.

Question 5

Read the following *Holy Sonnet* and analyse the poet's imaginative re-interpretation of the biblical text that inspired him to compose this poem.

DEATH be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadfull, for, thou art not soe,  
For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill mee.  
From rest and sleepe, which but thy pictures bee,  
Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow,  
And soonest our best men with thee doe goe,  
Rest of their bones, and soules deliverie.  
Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poyson, warre, and sicknesse dwell,  
And poppie, or charmes can make us sleepe as well,  
And better than thy stroake; why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleepe past, wee wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

- John Donne

### Question 6

Read the following lyrics of Lady Gaga's song and identify the biblical storylines, themes and embedded in the song.

#### I'm in Love with Judas

When he comes to me, I am ready  
I'll wash his feet with my hair if he needs  
Forgive him when his tongue lies through his brain  
Even after three times, he betrays me

I'll bring him down, bring him down, down  
A king with no crown, king with no crown

[Chorus]

I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby  
I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby

Ohohohoh  
I'm in love with Judas

Ohohohoh  
I'm in love with Judas

Judas! Judaas Judas! Judaas  
Judas! Judaas Judas! GAGA

[Lady Gaga - Verse 2]

I couldn't love a man so purely  
Even darkness forgave his crooked way  
I've learned our love is like a brick  
Build a house or sink a dead body

I'll bring him down, bring him down, down  
A king with no crown, king with no crown

[Chorus]

I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby  
I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby

Ohohohoh  
I'm in love with Judas

Ohohohoh  
I'm in love with Judas

[Bridge]

In the most Biblical sense,  
I am beyond repentance  
Fame hooker, prostitute wench, vomits her mind  
But in the cultural sense  
I just speak in future tense  
Judas kiss me if offended,  
Or wear an ear condom next time

I wanna love you,  
But something's pulling me away from you  
Jesus is my virtue,  
Judas is the demon I cling to  
I cling to

[Chorus]

I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby  
I'm just a Holy Fool, oh baby he's so cruel  
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby

Ohohohoh  
I'm in love with Judas

Ohohohoh  
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Judas! Judaas Judas! Judaas  
Judas! Judaas Judas! GAGA

Source: <http://www.directlyrics.com/lady-gaga-judas-lyrics.html>

### **Question 7**

Explain the two opposed views on the production of Christian art such as paintings, icons, frescoes and sculptures.

### **Question 8**

Discuss the idea referred to by film critic Emma Green as the "twin pitfalls" of film producers who base their movie scripts on biblical content.